

## REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are in the application. Claims 22-28 are amended. Claims 35-45 are new.

Claims 1-17 and 29-34 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to non-elected inventions.

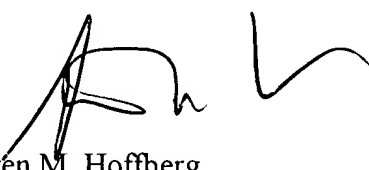
Claims 1-34 were subject to a restriction requirement between Group I, claims 1-7 and 9-13; Group II, claims 8 and 29-30; group III, claims 18-21, and Group IV, claims 14-17, 22-28, and 31-34.

Applicants have elected to prosecute Group III, drawn to an optically readable data storage medium, WITH TRAVERSE to the extent that applicants believe they are entitled to prosecute therewith claims directed to a combination of the elected storage medium with an authentication device, i.e., the reader of Group IV. The substantial elements of claim 18 have been included in claims 22-28 and 35-40, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims now fall within the scope of Group III.

Applicants also TRAVERSE the restriction requirement with respect to Group II, to the extent that the claim formulation set forth in claims 41-45 is believed by the Examiner to lie outside of the elected group III. Applicants have formulated claims 41-45 to recite substantially similar elements and phraseology as present in claim 18, and therefore these are believed to represent a species of the same invention and fall within the scope of Group III.

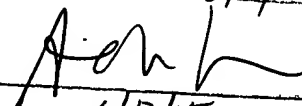
It is respectfully submitted that the present amendments will streamline prosecution while promoting administrative efficiency.

Respectfully submitted,  
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